

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title at page 1, line 1 with the following amended title:

~~LIFE EXTENDING PROBE AND CHANNEL INSPECTION METHOD~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In many applications the entire surface of the MUT must be inspected. For complete coverage, this requires that the sensor or sensor array be scanned over the entire surface, including the edges. As described herein, this is readily accomplished by taking measurements with the sensor or sensor array as it comes out of the area of limited access or channel, such as an engine disk slot, bolt hole, or a narrow gap between surfaces. A procedure for performing this type of inspection is illustrated in FIGS. 10, and 11, and 12. As shown in FIG. 10, an MUT 70 having a channel or region of limited access is inspected with a sensor or sensor array 76 attached to a balloon probe 78. A typical balloon probe and sensor assembly was shown in FIG. 3. With the balloon deflated 200, the sensor array 76 is placed a distance 80 from one side of the channel 72, 202. The balloon is then inflated 204 so that the sensor array is proximate to the MUT surface. A measurement scan is then taken 206 as the array is moved through an opening on the opposite side of the channel 74, 208. In one embodiment of the invention, the sensor assembly may be moved out of the second opening not all the way, such that the balloon probe 78 remains fully or partially inside the channel. After the sensor array has passed through the channel the balloon is deflated 210 and placed in the channel 212 a distance 82 away from the opposite end of the channel 74 as shown in FIG. 11. The balloon is then reinflated 214 so that the sensor array is again proximate to the test material. Another measurement scan is then performed 216 as the array is withdrawn from the channel 218.